

Boone Area Chamber of Commerce



A new location plus community support make it “bullish on Boone”

In June of this year, the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce moved to a new location at 870 West King Street in Boone, N.C. This 2,400-square-foot building puts the Chamber right in the middle of the action on the city’s main street and is adjacent to the Watauga County Courthouse.

Better for visitors and members

Dan Meyer, President/CEO, describes the benefits of the move this way, “Our new location on King Street helps visitors find us, and it’s more convenient for them; there’s parking available both under the building and behind it. The building is only about four years old and the chamber occupies one of six office suites. Its two-story design includes a lobby that’s perfect for displaying the chamber’s promotional materials, and an upstairs area with conference rooms and offices. Balconies overlook King Street so we can literally keep our eyes on what’s happening in our community.”

Meyer adds, “This location is actually smaller than our previous one of 20 years. We right-sized by making the move, since before, we had more space than we needed. It’s also very nicely appointed, so members can take pride in it. I believe our new location makes the statement that we’re bullish on Boone and committed to investing in this community.”

The mission of the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce is to advance economic prosperity and to encourage public/private cooperation that will broaden the economic base and enhance the quality of life. It’s a voluntary membership association that serves as the unified voice of the business community, joining together companies, professionals, organizations, groups and educational institutions that are committed to building a better community. Most of the approximately 750 members are small businesses interested in making a big impact by creating and fostering a healthy business environment.

Connections With SkyLine/SkyBest

When it came time to make plans for the communications equipment and services at the chamber’s new location, Meyer contacted Brent Keith, SkyLine/SkyBest Business Sales Executive. Meyer recalls, “I told Brent that we wanted a basic phone system that was simple and user friendly. We also wanted to be able to manage the phone system ourselves by making in-house changes. He helped us develop our specifications, and recommended an ESI system with on-board directions.”

Brent Keith notes, “The new ESI system that we installed for the Chamber will easily serve their needs now and in the future, with the ability to grow both in capacity and functionality with its Voice over IP backbone.”

ESI phone systems are integrated and self-contained, known for providing advanced capabilities while remaining simple to operate.



SkyLine's Adam Johnson, Ginny Campbell, Wysteria White, Tanis Trivette and Dan Meyer.

The Boone Area Chamber of Commerce was the first purchaser of an ESI phone system from SkyLine/SkyBest. This system offers a wide variety of features including voice mail, call transfers and conference calling. Says Meyer, “Everything is working great with our ESI phone system. Brent is our go-to guy, and he supplied training for our staff when the system was installed to make sure the transition went smoothly.”

“The Boone Area Chamber of Commerce also gets its Internet service from SkyLine/SkyBest. Explains Keith, “The Chamber has SkyBest Communications fiber-optic broadband service that is delivered via Ethernet right to their network — no modem necessary. It’s the same high-speed broadband service that they enjoyed at their old location.”

This broadband service will be put to good use. Meyer says, “Soon we’ll have a kiosk set up in the building’s lobby, so visitors will be able to easily access our site at www.boonechamber.com and get information about business-to-business activities, tourism, relocation and so on.”

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- Dan Meyer, President/CEO, Boone Area Chamber of Commerce

The relationship between the Chamber and SkyLine/SkyBest is not limited to phone and Internet services. The two organizations share a strong community commitment and SkyLine/SkyBest is an active member of the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce. Meyer says, “SkyLine/SkyBest assists with our annual membership drive by allowing us to use their Seven Devils office to make recruitment calls and providing us with extra phones for this purpose.”

Meyer sums it up like this, “Everyone at SkyLine/SkyBest does an outstanding job with customer service; they’re always very responsive to our needs and ready to give us suggestions and options. It’s a good example of the benefits of doing business with other local companies; as we say on our stickers — SHOP LOCAL. CLOSER IS BETTER.”



Left to right: Dan Meyer, Scott Eggers, Joedy Eller and Jeff Parlier; Omer Tomlinson; Ginny Campbell; Harry Davis; Wysteria White and Tanis Trivette